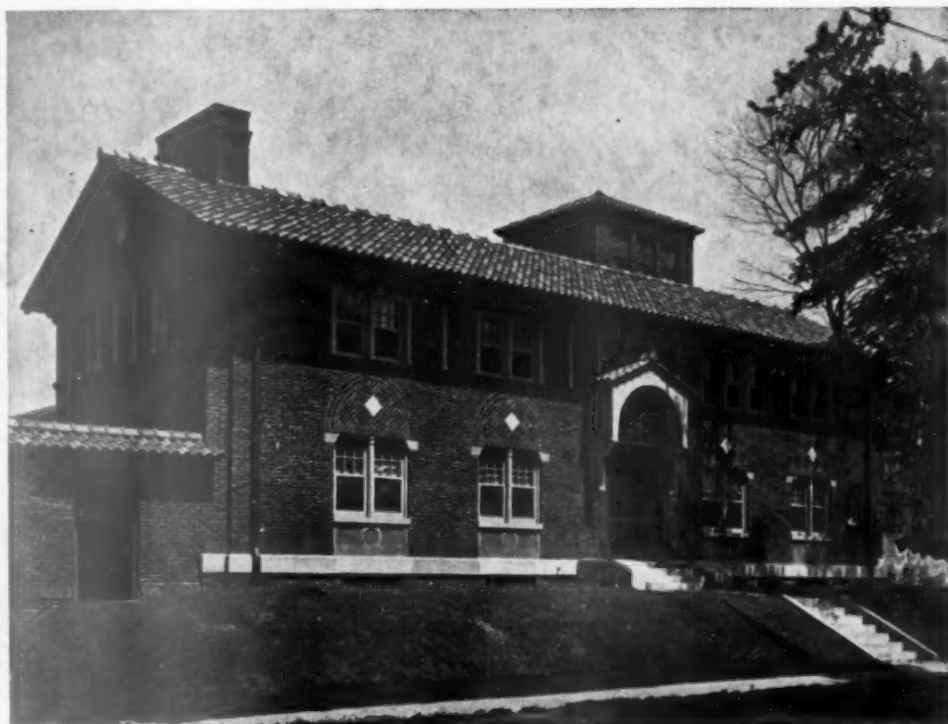


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The Playground

Vol. XII No. 12

MARCH 1919

The World At Play

The Community Christmas Tree.—Why not keep it alive throughout the year? It is not too early in the year to begin to think about next year's Community Christmas Tree. A suggestion made by Miss Gertrude Vivian in the December number of *The Woman's Magazine* will be of interest.

"The idea of an outdoor Christmas tree that everybody in the community may enjoy has spread over America with remarkable rapidity. It was only a few years ago that New York City proudly lighted up its first community tree for its seven million inhabitants.

"The tree was a huge spruce, erected in Madison Square Park, glowing with wonderful colored lights, and crowned with a big shining star.

"The first tree in Chicago was presented by a public-spirited citizen, and decorated by the Electric and Telephone Company.

"The large cities took the lead in making the community

tree an accepted yearly event. But it remained for a small town to start the latest idea in community trees.

"Flushing, Long Island, has a permanent Christmas tree that stays evergreen from Christmas to Christmas! The Park Garden Club put their heads together and decided that the cost of buying, hauling and erecting a tree each year was useless waste. Why not buy a good growing tree and plant it in a central spot, where the town could gather each year for its Christmas celebration. The initial cost would be considerable, but in a few years the tree would pay for itself by the money saved.

"So last spring the Park Garden Club bought a splendid Serbian spruce, thirty-five feet high, and planted it in front of the high school in Flushing.

"On Christmas Day it will glitter and glow for its admiring friends—and the good folk of Flushing will bid good-by to their tree with the comfortable assurance that next year

THE WORLD AT PLAY

it will light up for them just as beautifully as before.

"What about *your* town? Can't you start a movement for a permanent Christmas tree? Begin now, while the Christmas spirit is abroad in the land. A growing Christmas tree that lasts from year to year is a good investment for any community."

A New National Habit.—

From Mr. C. M. Goethe of Sacramento comes the suggestion that America ought to do far more than she has done in developing walking as a form of recreation.

Mr. Goethe's recommendation is based on a world-wide study of recreation in practically all foreign countries except South America, Australia and a portion of Africa. This study has brought to him several convictions. One of these is that the best Europe has evolved along recreational lines has been its splendid organization of hiking trips. The result of this organization is a form of recreation so inexpensive that the masses can turn to it when recreationally starved. One method is the nature-study-field excursion; another is rucksacking in such areas as the Alps, Norway or the Hartz Mountains. Still another is "wandervoegling." Europe has sensed the fact that the masses

need the inexpensive; that the incomes of most people do not permit of expensive outings; that it is only through nature study and hiking combined that they find that joy in life for which they hunger.

Mr. Goethe suggests that some way should be devised for offering the crystallized experience of Europe to America in such a way that a national habit will become fixed.

Can we not start the movement through the playgrounds by arranging for frequent walks in the course of which children can be taught in a way which will interest them permanently much bird lore and knowledge of flowers? Saturday afternoon and Sunday hikes for adults are gaining in popularity. Can they not be made to form the nucleus for the development of a new national habit?

An Outdoor Dance Floor.—

Mr. S. Wales Dixon, Supervisor of Recreation, Department of Parks, Hartford, Connecticut, sends the following description of the outdoor dance floor at Colt Park, which has proved a great success:

"The floor is 86' by 126' surrounded by a row of seats, outside of which is a promenade 12' wide which goes around the entire structure; outside of this is another row

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of benches. Large seating capacity is thus obtained. This structure cost about six thousand dollars which we paid for during our short season. A sounding board or shell which will cost nearly three thousand dollars (and we have set aside the money for it from our earnings) will be erected in the spring which will make it possible to use the structure for a great many purposes, even for lectures. One of the best uses to which this floor has been put was the Sunday evening community sings and concerts which were largely attended. Soldiers and sailors were in evidence at week-ends.

"The floor was opened July 24th and closed the middle of October, during which time we had nearly 70,000 admissions through the gate at ten cents each, and three times that number out in the park who came to enjoy the music and the sight of the dances. The nominal charge enabled us to procure a first-class orchestra made up from the best bands in the city who each had a weekly engagement. Our smallest crowd, along at the time of closing when it was really too cold for comfort, was about 400 and our largest crowd through the gate was 2,800—which was altogether too large from many stand-points."

Americanization in Chicago.

—The Chicago Association of Commerce reports gratifying results from its fifty-seven weekly classes in Americanization, held in various industrial plants. Thousands of men are reached and reduction in labor turnover, increased interest in their work and improvement in the social life of the workers are present fruits.

Another Playground for

India.—Welcome news has come of the opening of a new playground in India in the management of which the Government is participating. Mr. C. M. Goethe in writing of the playground says: "Its location is in a city near the base of the Himalaya Mountains. When Mrs. Goethe and I were there our impression was that of two rival wedding processions marching simultaneously, each bidding against the other to see which could obtain the more of the available elephants. That night we slept on string beds. The next morning we breakfasted at a girls' school where all ate with their fingers out of the common dish."

It is here that the new playground is being opened.

The Need For Imaginative Recreation in the Reconstruction Period

CONSTANCE D'ARCY MACKAY, War Camp Community Service,
New York City, N. Y.

Many significant things are coming out of the Great War, and perhaps only one of the most significant is the composite picture of the camps and their needs—a picture of what two million men desired in their leisure time; of what their dreams were made of. If “we are what our dreams make us” then this composite picture, impossible to secure in peace time, is one of the things war-created which has an immense bearing on our future as a nation.

Realizing the terrific strain that this greatest of all wars put upon the soldier our Government did everything in its power to keep life normal and sane and wholesome inside and outside the camps. It provided dances, movies, libraries, socials, picnics, athletics and motor rides for the men—yet there were deeper and subtler needs than these.

We have been accustomed to think of art as one of the luxuries of life: a composite picture of the camps show that it is one of the necessities. For art enters into all imaginative recreation. And recreation in its deepest sense is Re-Creation.

The heavier the strain that is put on the individual the more imaginative recreation is needed.* We hear a great deal about What-the-Public-Wants. In the midst of war What-the-Public-Wants was demonstrated from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coast. It wants non-commercial imaginative recreation—wants it more, perhaps, than any of us realize, or than we will accustom ourselves to admit. *Yet everything that has been done along the lines of imaginative recreation in the camps has a bearing on*

*From the Central Distributing Station in Paris, one thousand sets of costumes were issued to soldier entertainment units in France during the month of October, 1918. The Y. M. C. A. which, overseas, was a part of the army, stationed a man in each camp who took charge of the entertainment needs and remained with the regiment or division continuously. Self entertainment by the soldiers and under soldier leadership was particularly desired and encouraged. In the absence of established organization the Y. M. C. A. leader filled the place of a dramatic director—From a Government report

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what might be done along these same lines in civil life; for in this dawning period of reconstruction we shall need imaginative recreation more than ever before. Therefore, may it not be wise to take a brief survey of what has been done, what has been proved, as a basis for what might be done, since the past is the stepping stone of the future.

Drama and Music in Camp Life

The two arts that have played the greatest part in camp life are the art of drama,* and the art of music. If you are a skeptic, and need to be convinced, step back through the portals of time to those days that now seem so far off—the days when the Great War was still being fought—and attend the Liberty Theatre at a typical camp—Camp Devens, Ayer, Mass., on an evening in late September, 1918.

You will find the theatre set in the heart of the cantonment. Before the door men are standing, men in khaki, hundreds of them—some with "Smileage Books" and some without. You enter the theatre (where no seats are reserved) and find it an immense, barn-like, unpainted structure with a sloping floor and rows upon rows of benches. Yet somehow, its very rawness is impressive. It has a suggestion of pioneer forces.

The theatre is well lighted and well ventilated. Dozens of huge electric fans are in motion; and the smell of rough, unpainted timber is strong on the air.

It is only seven-thirty, but already the uncarpeted aisles echo to the steady tread of feet. And presently you are aware of a mighty rustle and hum—the voices of the men as they turn the leaves of their programs and discuss the possibilities of the coming "show." The theatre is filled from the first row to the last. That means that three thousand men are present. Turn your head and take a look at those long rows of young, determined faces. What an audience to play to! Democracy incarnate!

*In connection with the dramatic activities fostered in the army by the Training Camp Commission it may be noted that General Yogi said at the time of the Russo-Japanese War, that for many years the Nippon Government had realized the necessity of drama as a means of maintaining the morale of the Japanese army.

General Hamilton relates that during the Russo-Japanese War he saw twenty thousand Japanese soldiers in a beautiful Manchurian valley attend a highly artistic performance given on a portable stage standing on bamboo supports. The drops and curtain, whether for interior or exterior, were draped on light bamboo rods which telescoped cleverly like fishing-rods.

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It is the audience and not the players that will give you the thrill of the evening.

Jock O'Dreams Reveals Himself in Song All unannounced a song leader has come out in front of the curtain, and you are on your feet hearing the *Star Spangled Banner* sung as you have seldom heard it. And then, when you have taken your seat, you are aware that another remarkable thing has happened; at a sign from the song leader the whole theatre again becomes a mighty chorus. You may have heard men sing together; but have you ever heard three thousand men sing together—three thousand men who have been trained to sing? It is something never to be forgotten. In the words of Walt Whitman you can hear "America singing." Clear and deep and sweet the sound rises and stirs you, and you remember that the drama itself was born of song—that it grew out of rhythmic chant and chorus; out of the human need for expression.

Keep the Home Fires Burning. How they sing it! What fervor they pour into it! And in another moment they are laughing their way through the famous "chow" song:

"WednesdayS-O-U-P
FridayF-I-S-H,"

and next they are musically proclaiming *Oh, How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning!* And then they swing into *There's a Long Long Trail A-winding into the Land of My Dreams.* They sing it with a feeling of beauty that you would not have believed possible. Unless they really felt it no power on earth could teach them to sing it like that. And suddenly and subtly you become conscious that deep down in every man in the audience there is a **Jock o'Dreams**—an elusive Jock, a shy Jock, afraid to show his face, afraid he will be laughed at if he confesses how much beauty means to him. But set him singing and before he knows it he has unconsciously revealed what he thought was hidden even from himself.

The curtain rises. The evening of vaudeville begins. It is average vaudeville. Some of the "acts" are good; some of them are mediocre. Surprisingly enough, the audience, generous with laughter where there is anything to laugh at, is rather chary of applause.

And then a curious thing happens: a private in khaki appears ("From Company G," a man behind you whispers) and quite simply sings a semi-classical song. It is perfectly good English

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that every one can understand. The unknown singer is an artist, a trained musician. That is instantly apparent. He gives what he has to give with absolute simplicity and directness in a really beautiful voice. The house, taken by surprise, is so still you can hear a pin drop. At the song's end the applause is like Niagara. It pours through the theatre, deafening, stupendous. The singer comes back and back. They will not let him go.

"Her brow is like the snow-drift

Her throat is like the swan."

Yes, these are the same boys that laughed so uproariously only fifteen minutes before over the acrobatic antics of Norrie, the Nut; these are the same boys that crowed with delight over a skillful "buck and wing." They wanted fun; they wanted skill; but besides all this they wanted *beauty*. The biggest, most thrilling response of the evening was made to an unheralded singer who gave the boys what they wanted—not what they were *supposed* to want. They gave a hearty response to an artillery man who did some clever imitations; they showed warm approval of a man from the depot brigade who essayed a spirited pianologue full of local hits; but it was the singer in khaki who gave them the finest work of the evening, and they recognized it, instantly and tumultuously.

They proved that the average man wants the best if he can get it easily and inexpensively.

The Unconscious Craving for Beauty in the Drama At the Hostess Houses it was not altogether the sense of quiet, and the pleasure of feminine companionship that attracted the boys, and they freely confessed it. The books, the flowers, the air of spaciousness, the good taste that lay in entire simplicity of decoration made an immense appeal. A Saturday night at one of the Hostess Houses with music and dramatic readings and good talk about the open fire was a revelation to many boys who had been compelled by force of circumstances to lead meagre, arid lives. One stormy night at the Hostess House at Camp X—— a private who in civilian life was the editor of a well-known quarterly, read aloud to the assembled men from the works of Kipling, Service, and Robert Louis Stevenson. The boys enjoyed it hugely. In the days following there was a raid on the Kipling—Service—Stevenson books in the camp library. Then came a petition for another such evening, and this petition was started by a man who, up to the time of his enlistment, had been a waiter

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in a New York hotel. For many men the *spoken word* holds a lure that the *printed word* does not at first possess. And drama is made up of the spoken word. That is why it is so vitally important that what the theatre offers should be of the best. The truth is, Jock o'Dreams wants something finer than either he or we will acknowledge.

In the beginning, there were only sixteen Liberty Theatres. Less than a year afterwards, in response to the need for them, there were forty-five Liberty Theatres.* The price of admission in all Liberty Theatres was exactly the same—twenty-five and fifty cents. These Liberty Theatres were run without financial loss. And if these theatres could be run without financial loss, so could People's Theatres (i. e. Industrial Theatres or Workingman's Theatres†) where they and their families could see good plays at reasonable prices. At present, the working man and his family are condemned to the movies. The spoken drama is utterly prohibitive.

Self Expression through Commu- nity Drama

Meanwhile, it is interesting to note that community drama (that is, drama acted by the people themselves, and in the case of the camps acted by the soldiers themselves) has flourished amazingly.

The men not only wanted to see plays; they wanted to participate in them. They participated in music; why not in drama? The word amateur really means art-lover; and as amateurs

* Players such as Laurette Taylor, Otis Skinner and David Warfield have appeared in the Liberty Theatres. Each camp had its favorite play. At Camp Devens the favorite play was *Daddy Long-Legs*. The most universally popular play throughout all the camps was that wholesome, "home-folks" comedy, *Turn to the Right*. Nor have the Liberty Theatres had a monopoly in the producing of plays. "Visiting talent" as well as "home talent" gave some remarkably good productions in the various Y. M. C. A.'s. In a camp near the Eastern sea-board, Anatole France's fanciful masterpiece, *The Man Who Married a Dumb Wife* proved popular, as did also Oliphant Down's *A Maker of Dreams*.

Semi-classical musical programs given by visiting artists such as Maud Powell and Leopold Godowsky drew a huge attendance.

† Such a theatre was planned by a group of manufacturers at Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, and the building was by way of being erected when peace was declared and the diminishment of the working force caused the theatre project to be abandoned. It would have been a *community theatre* with working people for its players. Its director was to have been Mrs. Pratt, formerly of the Greenwich Village Theatre, New York, and she had evolved a plan whereby the Irish workers would give plays by Yeates, Synge, and Lady Gregory; while Russian plays would be given by Russians in *English*, and so on. The ideal theatre for working people is difficult to plan for in this country since so many of our workers speak different tongues. But it can be done.

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(i. e. art-lovers) the men wanted to have their share in the experience of being, if only for an evening, "some one else." They liked to be a part of the movement and color and creative life that goes to the making of any play. In other words, they wanted glamour.

The list of plays that casts of men could act successfully was so very meager that the United States Government, for the first time in its history (or in the history of any government for that matter) went into play-publishing on its own account. It published a set of one-act Service Plays which would be used only by the men in the service. These plays were distributed by the War Board, Commission on Training Camp Activities, free of charge. Each play was written by a famous dramatist especially for the camps. Amongst the authors so represented were Augustus Thomas, Edgar Selwyn, Austin Strong, Captain Rupert Hughes, and others. Barrie's tender *The Old Lady Shows Her Medals*, Yeats' whimsical *Pot of Broth*, and Lady Gregory's *Workhouse Ward* were greatly in demand as were short pieces by Richard Harding Davis, such as *The Zone Police*.

The men utilized Jewish Welfare or Knights of Columbus, or Y. M. C. A. houses as places in which to act these plays; and for fifteen of the camps the government provided experienced dramatic directors to train the men. The reports of these directors were published in the bi-monthly bulletin issued by the War Board and many of them were highly significant.

Each camp worked out its own problems individually. Camp Greenleaf, Georgia, specialized in the production of patriotic plays. *Here is a hint for social center leaders who are continually asking: "What shall we do to develop Americanism?"*

The Travelling Theatre

Dramatic Director Rollo Lloyd of Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky, reported that he often used a travelling army truck as a theatre for one-act plays. *Here is an idea for sparsely settled country districts. Such a travelling theatre could easily be sent from village to village.*

The idea of a travelling theatre is not new. We are all familiar with Stuart Walker's Portmanteau Theatre. But this truck theatre, devised by Mr. Lloyd is even simpler. As to how to equip it with scenery and how to take properties along:—a clever man at Camp Hancock, Georgia, devised a travelling army theatre for use both here and abroad. This theatre and all its

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belongings are made of canvas. It can easily be taken apart or set up. The whole equipment, including the lighting system, can be packed up in ten small chests of locker size. There are four scenes which have first been painted and then made water proof so that the theatre can withstand all storms. This makes it ideal for use in Europe. The original theatre is to remain at Camp Hancock; and copies of it are to be turned out for use by the American soldiers across the water. *Such a travelling theatre as this would be an inestimable boon for country districts.*

Teaching English through the Drama In another report Mr. Lloyd said: "The majority of my men cannot read. Everything has to be taught orally, which is slow work. Yet everything has been well rehearsed to date."

Here is a new idea that workers among the foreign born should find of immense practical value—a wonderful opportunity to teach English even before the alphabet is learned.

In all the camps enthusiasm for community drama ran high. Dramatic Director Hackett, of Camp Dix, New Jersey, reports:—"I am deeply interested in the continual discovery of talent and the desire among so many men to give expression to their thoughts and ambitions."

One-act plays proved immensely popular because they could so quickly be learned and produced. Three or four one-act plays could be acted in an evening, with a different set of men in each play. *Here is an idea for community center workers in cities.*

The way these plays were rehearsed shows how drama can be made to seep through and through the community life of any city.

Every camp had its dramatic unit made up of one man from each regiment. This man, in turn, got together a company of dramatic recruits in the regiment he represented and under the eye of the General Director trained them. Thus, every regiment had its company complete within itself. All the plays, it must be noted, were so simple they could be given in barracks, mess halls, "Y" huts, or in Liberty Theatres.

Giving the Best in Dramatic Art At Camp Humphreys, Virginia, the Dramatic Director was Mr. Barrett H. Clark, widely known for his books on drama. Mr. Clark declared: "I do not think the soldiers here are above the average; I merely have faith that any good play that is not too subtle will succeed in any camp. There is little difference between the

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soldiers of one camp and those of another. I venture to say that any of the four different plays I have produced would go under similar conditions, in any of the other camps." (These plays were by Dunsany, Barrie, Lady Gregory and Yeats.) And yet there have been people who have been afraid that such plays might be "over the soldiers' heads," might be "too good." We are contemptuous of our general public because we are not acquainted with it. The one fear we should have is that the plays will not be good enough—and what is true of camp audiences is true of other audiences. *Workers interested in community dramatics in cities or country districts should take this knowledge to heart.*

The men who would be supposed to care the least about drama are often the ones who care the most about it—witness the report of Dramatic Director Boetler, of Camp Travis, Texas, on the question of interesting the South-western boy—the boy of the plains, in drama:—"I have examined very carefully into the tastes of these boys and have investigated any sort of thing which has been successful in drawing them into the theatre and I have learned that they have been brought up on burlesque and minstrelsy, and later, of course, the movies. They do not know drama * * * it is pathetic the amount of enjoyment these boys derive from our snappy shows * * * the officers tell me that the men go to bed singing after one of our shows and display more 'pep' for days afterwards."

Boys like these have to be gently led. It does not do to begin at once with the best in dramatic art; that is reached by gradations. These boys on the western plains are alertly suspicious of high-brow-ism, of "being done good to." But as Mr. Franklin Sargent, Chairman of the Department of Dramatic Activities among Soldiers, remarks: "Wherever the Directors have tested this utility of a higher grade of performance, if the material itself is worthy, and the acting is worthy, success has usually followed."

Pageantry at Training Camps

At War Camp Community Service Soldiers' Clubs evenings of drama and music have served to bring camp and community together as have also the surprising number of pageants that have been produced throughout the camps. There have been pageants of the Allies, glowing with color; Historical Pageants, Pageants of Brotherhood, and Christmas Nativity Pageants. *The Patriotic Christmas*

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Pageant, written for War Camp Community Service was widely used, as was the *Old English Christmas Revel*. Percy Mackaye's *Evergreen Tree* had several splendid productions. Miss Lotta Clark's *The Torch Bearers* was produced at Fort Logan with much success. Early in 1918 at Camp Devens, Mass., Thomas Wood Stevens' *The Drawing of the Sword*, a pageant of the Allies, was given in a unique manner; for the parts of the French were taken by French officers; Italians were played by Italian officers; while English officers played the parts of the English. This patriotic pageant was produced by many of the camps; the fact that it was in blank verse did not daunt its camp participants.

"Bright is the ring of words
When the right man rings them,
Fair the fall of song
When the singer sings them."

No one is proof against the magic of sheer loveliness.

Almost every camp had its beautiful *Festival of Song and Light*. In many cases this festival has been used with the Community Christmas Tree. At Camp Kearney, California, a sixty-five foot tree was brought from sixty miles back in the Cuyamaca Mountains, and the tree itself, light-spangled and wondrous to look upon, was sixty-five feet high. In one Southern camp a great singing procession marched through the streets of the camp which were filled with small fir trees, each tree hung with lights giving the impression almost of a fairy forest. *Here is an idea for Christmas in some city square or town park, where all the trees might be hung with lights; or a single block might carry out such an idea with one tree for each household. The idea of the singing procession is also a good one.*

Sailors as Well as Soldiers Are Caught by the Magic of Beauty We already know the power of the pageant as a socializing force. The camps have proved it anew, proved that the average citizen loves color, rhythm, picturesqueness. There are people who think that art is effeminizing, whereas it is the reverse which holds true. There is nothing effeminate about our glorious army! "A singing army is a fighting army," says General Bell, and it is interesting to note that it is not only the army that loves to sing. A tremendous enthusiasm for singing exists among the sailors. Naval Training Stations, as well as camps, have their song-leaders. Indeed the music of the Naval Stations is becoming celebrated—witness the band of the Great Lakes Training Stations, which has been touring the country. Recently, Caruso wanted a pianist

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to accompany him at a patriotic meeting at the New York Hippodrome, and a sailor from the Great Lakes Training Stations stepped successfully into the breach.

It may be remarked, parenthetically, that the Naval Training Stations have not made as much use of drama as have the camps, it has not the hold on them that music has. Perhaps because it is a landsman's art. However, they are beginning to be interested in producing pageants, and one-act plays—particularly the plays of Eugene O'Neill, a new dramatist who has himself been a sailor, and who shows with power and veracity incidents in the lives of those "who go down to the sea in ships."

Song means so much to the sailor that hereafter for every merchant marine flying an American flag the United States Shipping Board Service has appointed an official Chantey Man to help revive the songs of the sea—for that is what chanteys are. An official Chantey Man! The very name is full of romance! It has the salt tang and smack of the waves in it. Who knows but what from the development of these chanteys we may yet have our American Kipling! Our Indian songs and songs of the Kentucky Mountains have been collected: and some one may yet collect our old American chanteys as they were sung on the sailing vessels that brought home cargoes from the Indies; and we shall hear again the chanteys of the whalers of Nantucket—bluff, hearty choruses with the long swing of the combers in them. Civilian life will be enriched because of what is being done in the folk-art of the ocean. (And is it not a joyful thought to picture our sailors singing on the seas whose freedom they have helped to win again for all the world?)

Transferring to Civil Life This New-Awakened Love of Imaginative Recreation

To take a panoramic view of what has gone forward in our camps along the line of art is simply amazing. Never before has any government taken such cognizance of the art-needs of its defenders.

"All this work," says Mr. Otto Kahn, "is getting the vast army away from the cheap and tawdry in amusement, giving a finer and wiser appreciation of art, and furnishing a higher standard of entertainment, is affording opportunity and guidance for latent talents which their owners might otherwise have never discovered. It is letting loose springs of inspiration of which these men were unconscious."

Man cannot live without beauty (and art is beauty) any more

IMAGINATIVE RECREATION IN RECONSTRUCTION

than he can live without bread. *Most of the art forces that existed in our camps came from the demand for imaginative recreation made by the men themselves.* Sometimes this demand was articulate; sometimes it was inarticulate; yet almost always it was there.

To men who lacked advantages our camps were like great universities. All the treasures of knowledge and art were suddenly set before them.

Now the camps are closing. The men are going back into civil life. *What is to be done with this newly awakened love of imaginative recreation?* Is it to go to waste? Are we to allow it to die for lack of material on which to feed? Will not this love, rightly fostered, result in a greater impetus of community music and community drama than America has ever known?

Already things have been done in the camps, which, turned into the right channels of civilian life, would make enormously for its enrichment in:

- 1—Industrial Centers
- 2—Social Centers for the Foreign Born
- 3—Country Communities
- 4—City Communities

To turn the tide of new recreational ideas into civilian life requires no special equipment; *only a new light and a re-using of the sources at hand.*

There must be a wider development of community drama and community music in each place throughout the country, thus making for national as well as civic solidarity.

And how can this be accomplished?

By giving community drama and community music a home: in other words, by establishing in every community a Community Theatre, where choruses will be trained, where plays will be rehearsed, where pageants will be shaped, where music and drama will be more closely inter-related than they are now. Here foreign citizens should bring their arts; here American citizens should bring their ideas. Here Fourth of July and Thanksgiving celebrations should be planned; here community Christmas Tree revels designed. Here, too, should be discussed all plans for industrial recreation, for working men's theatres. Here should focus the city's or town's art-life.

The idea of such a focusing point is not a dream. Erie,

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Pennsylvania, has already proved the worth of such a plan in its Little Community Playhouse. As a prospectus inspiringly says:—"The Little Playhouse is a place and an idea. The place is one of entertainment; the idea is community service. The place vitalized by the idea becomes concrete expression of civic pride.

"The Little Playhouse is the beginning of a community center and has a three-fold purpose:—to encourage and develop every kind of artistic endeavor in the city. To promote neighborliness by bringing people together and interesting them in one another. To add something to the joy of life and the presentation of good music and worth-while plays."

The Erie Community Chorus (one of the first of its kind to be organized in America) and the Erie Community Orchestra both have their home in the playhouse.

"If the salt has lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted?" If we do not conserve what the camps have already helped to create, ours will be the loss.

We have been accused of being the most commercial nation under the sun; yet the camps have proved anew that away down deep from the heart of us the old eternal cry for beauty still wells up, as it did in the days of ancient Greece and in the days when Shakespeare was a country lad. Is it not of national import to ask how in the times that are coming we shall make answer to the cry? The government has done everything in its power to give imaginative recreation to the camps; will it not later help to plan imaginative non-commercial recreation for its lonely country districts, its toilworn towns?

Liberty Buildings

The American City, in sponsoring the idea of the erection in each community of community houses which will serve the living while commemorating the dead, has struck a note which is sounding all over the country. A number of communities are already making plans for these neighborhood centers which will express as can no marble pillar the ideal for which thousands of our men have died. Plans are on foot for converting a number of the soldiers' clubs and community buildings conducted by War Camp Community Service—which, during the war were used

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exclusively for men in service or as meeting places for soldiers and civilians—into community houses which will serve the entire community.

The call to action is sounded in *The American City*: "Democracy must have a home. When the war is over, the Democracy for which these men are fighting must have more adequate meeting places in the home communities. Let us all, in every city and town and village in America, begin to plan now for community houses to be erected immediately after the war. Let us call them

Liberty Buildings

and dedicate them as neighborhood gathering places for civic service and fellowship for all the people—living structures to perpetuate the democracy of the camp and to service as

Fitting Memorials to the Brave Men, Living and Dead

who shall have helped to win the world war for Democracy. From these buildings will resound through an era of peace the ringing message of human freedom.

"Let us plan our Liberty Buildings on no niggardly scale. The war has shown that the American people will give lavishly for a great cause. Let us determine the needs of our own community and plan accordingly, including such facilities for recreation, culture, fellowship and public service as a practical idealism may suggest. If we live in a large city, several such buildings may be needed; if in a village, one will suffice.

"Let the erection of these Liberty Buildings be begun at such time as may best help to tide over, in some measure, the period of readjustment when our returning soldiers or our industrial workers shall be in need of employment. And finally, in planning, financing and administration, let us make every possible use of existing commercial and civic bodies, and of the many war service organizations which have been the medium of patriotic effort in these days of strife. For if, when the war shall end, we of America can turn to constructive works of peace our new spirit and energy of public service, we shall have achieved Liberty and Democracy indeed."

In the December number of *The American City* there ap-

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appears an article on *Liberty Buildings as Victory Monuments*, which gives some very practical suggestions for the construction, site, design, use, cost and maintenance of these buildings and for methods of raising money. These suggestions will be of interest to readers of *THE PLAYGROUND* who are thinking along these lines.

Name of the Memorial *Liberty* more than any other word expresses the principle for which the war has been fought, and which is to be perpetuated by the proposed memorial. Therefore the name *Liberty* should distinguish the building: Liberty Hall, Liberty Building, Liberty House, Liberty Lyceum, or some other such name would be appropriate.

Object of the Building The building would serve two main purposes:
1. As a memorial to the heroic dead, and to all from the local community who joined the colors during the war

2. As a community center to afford headquarters and a meeting place for such community agencies as the

Chamber of Commerce

Red Cross

War Veterans' Associations

Patriotic and Defense Societies

Local Charities

Playground and Recreation Associations

Fraternal Organizations

Farm Bureau

County Grange

Rotary Club

Civic Organizations

Women's Clubs

Boy Scouts

Boys' and Girls' Clubs

Literary Societies

Musical Societies

Study Clubs.

The Building Site The building should be centrally located and easy of access by all means of transportation.

The site should, if possible, be large enough to separate the building on all sides for at least fifty feet from other structures, and free from unusual noises. More open space would be desirable, and in some cases provision could be made for community tennis courts or other outdoor recreational features immediately adjoining the building. The site should be chosen with reference to the future, so that the growth of the city will not remove the centre of population too far away. The nature of the enterprise is such that a municipality might well donate the site or permit its erection upon ground where private buildings

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would not be permitted. In very large cities several neighborhood buildings would be preferable to one central structure.

Design

The building should be architecturally beautiful, featuring the best building material of the particular locality, the style to be impressive but not over-ornate. The size and cost of the building, the equipment which it will contain and the service which it will perform will depend upon local needs and local spirit. In every community some of the following facilities and equipment should be embraced in the plan:

Offices and committee rooms for the Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations

Headquarters for Farm Bureau

Auditorium for public meetings, entertainments and motion pictures

Memorial hall with engrossed records under glass, and tablets and trophies

Reading room (or complete library if the town has no public library building)

Exhibit rooms for art exhibits and for products of local industries and resources

Farmers' rest room

Dance hall

Classrooms

Gymnasium

Community kitchen

Swimming pool

Dining-room

Bowling-alleys

Music room

Room for billiards and pool

Game rooms and club rooms for boys and girls

In small towns and villages where there is no adequate town hall, it may prove desirable that the building should include headquarters for the local government, and perhaps in some cases, for the local fire department. A combination of public school building and social center will be desirable in some of the smaller places.

Use of the Building

The building should be open to the whole community. It should be dedicated to community fellowship and unity, so greatly advanced by this war. Every non-sectarian and non-partisan movement to promote community progress, welfare and happiness should find sanctuary within its doors.

The meetings of the various organizations mentioned above,

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lyceum courses, high schools, motion picture entertainments, dances, musicales, debates should keep the building constantly in use.

Cost of the Building

For the building alone it is recommended that a minimum sum equivalent to \$3 per capita in towns of 10,000 and above be provided. An additional minimum sum of \$1 per capita ought to be provided for furnishings and equipment. In small communities perhaps a minimum of \$30,000 for the building and \$7,500 for furnishings and equipment would be appropriate. Rapidly growing communities ought to take into consideration the probable increase in population for the next ten years and build accordingly.

The entire cost of the building and equipment **Raising the Money** should be raised by popular subscription in a campaign conducted along the lines of a Red Cross or United War Work drive. To exact the funds by taxation would rob the building of its true nature of a thank-offering. In some cities a public-spirited citizen can be found who will donate a suitable site for the building. The building should be erected without encumbrances on either building or site. Liberty Bonds should be accepted at par from all who wish to make payments in that form.

In some cases it will be possible to secure large gifts from relatives of men who have given their lives in the war. Such a gift could, if desired, be used to provide a gymnasium, or a library, or some other special feature for which funds would not be available otherwise and which might bear the name of the donor.

Lodges or societies which are to have rooms in the building might be invited to provide the furnishing for such rooms at their own expense.

Maintenance

The nature of this building and its uses place it in the class of all other public buildings and, naturally, should exempt it from taxation of all kinds.

Three methods have been suggested for the financing and maintenance of the building:

(a) An annual municipal appropriation to cover the cost of upkeep and of heat, light and janitor service; such appropriation to be made in consideration of the free use of the building by the

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public generally and its dedication to the welfare of the entire community

(b) The building could be made self-supporting by charging adequate rental to organizations occupying offices in the building and a reasonable charge for the use of the auditorium and of the club facilities

(c) An endowment fund to be raised by popular subscription and to be supplemented by bequests from time to time

Now Is the Time for Action While the sacrifices and achievements of the war and the conditions of permanent peace are still the main topics of public discussion, is the time for action. The project should be launched at once, therefore, and the funds pledged by the time the peace treaty is signed.

A community meeting might well start the movement. Following such meeting, a Liberty Building Committee of representative men and women from all spheres of influence might be appointed and be made responsible for the campaign. Every community now has its organization of war workers for Liberty Loan, Red Cross, United War Work and other campaigns. These organizations can, with practically no difficulty, secure funds necessary for this memorial.

The erection of these buildings will afford employment to a great number of returning soldiers and war workers, and will help in the process of industrial readjustment. The movement should be immediate also in order to preserve the splendid spirit of service that has been created in the various war activities. The spirit of unity, the subjugation of selfish interest, and the exaltation of spiritual values must be perpetuated in order to preserve the greatest fruits of the war.

The soldiers and the boys from our various communities have been enjoying in camp and in the near-by cities the facilities of the Y. M. C. A., K. of C., Red Cross, War Camp Community Service, and other agencies. They have been uplifted and ennobled by the wholesome influence thrown around them by a thoughtful government and a patriotic people. They must not return home to find sordidness and a lack of all the things that made their army life pleasant and memorable.

There should be a Liberty Building in every community by the time the last troops are demobilized.

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The Campaign

As stated above, the funds to provide this building and its furnishings and equipment should be given as a thank-offering rather than exacted in the form of taxation. Not the least cause for thankfulness should be the fact that more than 97 per cent of the two million Americans who went overseas will return alive. This is a special reason why the war should be commemorated by living memorials.

To raise these funds the veterans of all the war-time campaigns should unite in one body and put into this final effort all the zeal and enthusiasm that is justified by the great victory our boys have won. The appeal can be made irresistible from a patriotic standpoint. It is also strong from a selfish standpoint, for the reason that the money can be spent at home with local contractors and dealers for home labor, to provide a structure for the enjoyment of home people and the home boys.

Community Houses

Homes of Democracy

Much interest has been aroused by the suggestion that instead of erecting monuments or statues in acknowledgment of the great debt which the American people owe their soldiers and sailors, each community throughout the United States build after the war a neighborhood house to be known as a liberty building and to be used as a center of recreation, fellowship and public service for all the people. In this way, it is believed, can best be symbolized the democracy for which so many men have given their lives and the ideal of human service for which they died.

Existing Community Buildings

Many communities are fortunate in already having community buildings which are serving as meeting places for the community and as expressions of community unity and purpose. Some of them have doubtless played important parts in shaping the ideals of many men who have fought the more gallantly for democracy because of the expression of it in which they have shared in their own communities through community centers.

Because of the present wide-spread enthusiasm over the

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establishment of community houses, a brief description of a few such existing centers may be of interest.

CALIFORNIA

Kentfield (Pop. 400)

Tamalpais Centre in the village of Kentfield, near San Francisco, has a beautiful and substantial recreation building costing \$20,000. This building contains an auditorium of ample size with a stage, club rooms, kitchen and shop for manual work. A man qualified by training and experience is in charge. The place is the gift of the Kent family. Although Kentfield numbers but four hundred, the center is available to 4,000 people of the countryside.

La Jolla (Pop. 100)

The Community House on the La Jolla playground was a gift of Miss Ellen B. Scripps to the city of San Diego. It is provided with a large auditorium, a stage, club rooms, reading room, pool room, locker and shower rooms, offices, a hospital ward, a kitchen fully equipped, and a complete, up-to-date lantern room equipped with a motion picture machine.

Los Angeles (Pop. 503,812)

Los Angeles, like Chicago and Pittsburgh, has several playground clubhouses and recreation buildings, but in addition there is a downtown building called a "recreation center," where the playground is small and of minor importance, and the main work lies indoors. This is larger than the clubhouses and more substantially built. It is of brick and plaster, built in the Spanish Renaissance style. It was built for about \$20,000 but would cost a great deal more today. It has bowling alleys, baths, call station for district nurse, club rooms, kitchen and library. The main feature, however, is a large, fully equipped gymnasium. This may be used also for an auditorium and is provided with a large stage, which is ordinarily closed off with rolling doors for use as a club room. A roof garden from which splendid views of the city and mountains may be had extends over part of the building. An artistic little five-room apartment for the manager's home completes the building.

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Nuevo Rancho

Nuevo Rancho is a little place near Los Angeles, which has a community building dedicated to the social and intellectual interests of ranchers and townsfolk.

Oakland (Pop. 198,604)

The Moss Residence in Mosswood Park, Oakland, California, was built a generation ago and is one of the best remaining specimens of the old California architecture. The city has converted it into a municipal country club, adjoining a playground and athletic field. In the south wing of the building were installed shower baths, dressing rooms, toilet and locker rooms for men, women and children. The main portion of the building contains a rest room for women, meeting rooms for clubs and societies, a branch library and tea room. Light refreshments, tea, coffee, milk and soft drinks are for sale here.

CONNECTICUT

Manchester (Pop. 13,641)

Manchester, Conn., has a recreation center, donated to the use of the townspeople by Cheney Brothers. It is a modern, up-to-date building with gymnasium, swimming pool, shower baths for both men and women, reading rooms, club rooms, bowling alleys and billiard and smoking rooms. It is under the control of a committee appointed by the school district and is maintained by membership subscription.

ILLINOIS

La Salle-Peru Township (Pop. 10,000)

The activities of the Social Center of the La Salle-Peru Township are supported by taxation and are maintained by the township board of education, under the direct supervision of a staff of six year-round workers. The work was made possible through a gift of \$75,000 for a Recreation Building to be conducted in connection with the High School and to serve as a community center. This building contains a large gymnasium with a running track, a swimming pool, locker rooms, a bowling alley and four club rooms. It is used in connection with the

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high school, containing the auditorium, which seats 600, has a stage and scenery and is modeled after the Little Theatre of New York. Just adjacent to the building lies the new athletic and play field. This contains tennis courts, a cinder running track, baseball fields and a large outdoor swimming pool. A large concrete stadium has also recently been erected, its cost being defrayed by public subscription. The Center runs year-round, night and day, seven days a week.

Peoria (Pop. 71,458)

Peoria has a fine community center, the gift of a prominent citizen, called the John C. Proctor Recreation Center and Public Baths. It has a gymnasium, swimming pool, baths, club rooms, a library, an entertainment hall, and bowling alley and billiard tables.

INDIANA

La Porte (Pop. 13,322)

In 1910 at the solicitation of the women of the town, the County Commissioners gave the old jail building to the women's organization of the city for a trial period of six months, to be used as a rest and recreation building by the town and especially by the farmers' wives and children. The building was nicely equipped at a cost of \$275 and the cost of running it was about \$125.00 a month. The only contribution made by the Municipality was the old jail building, the citizens of the town contributing the other funds. The building proved to be so needed and was so successful that finally on the site of the old jail the women's organizations and interested citizens built a new building which is supported by voluntary contributions.

KANSAS

Coldwater (Pop. 1,088)

Coldwater has a community building 75' by 120' which will seat 2,000 people. It has a stage and four small rooms, two dressing rooms, two shower baths, a library, a reading room and a rest room.

Marysville (Pop. 2,166)

The community house at Marysville was the outgrowth of

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the thought and interest of two public spirited citizens, one of whom supplied the money for the enterprise. The house has a reception or living room, a library, rest rooms for men and women, office, reading and game rooms, a nursery, tub and shower baths and a gymnasium in which a race track may be used as a gallery for spectators. It also has a porcelain lined swimming pool, 20 by 50 feet with a depth running from 3 to 8 feet. Additional features which, in the estimation of the originator, might well be added are an automatic bowling alley, a shooting gallery, a moving picture theatre for educational films and rooms which might be rented to organizations.

The expenses for running the community house for seventeen months averaged \$174.12 a month, part of which included initial expenses which would not be a consideration a second year. Membership dues are paid to help support the expenses of the club. The building could be duplicated at a cost of from \$14,000 to \$20,000.

Parsons (Pop. 12,463)

In 1917 Parsons voted \$150,000 in bonds for a community building for meeting place and concerts.

Russell (Pop. 1,601)

A building called Community Hall has been built at Russell on ground belonging to the city which is loaned for this purpose. It is valued at about \$3,000, the money having been raised by the sale of shares at \$5.00 each. The building is used as a gymnasium and auditorium.

Topeka (Pop. 48,726)

The community building and the adjoining outdoor swimming pool at Ripley Park, Topeka, were built in the summer of 1917 at a cost of \$23,000, of which the Santa Fe Railroad donated \$15,000 through its president. The building is a two-story structure of burnt brick with gray and wine trimmings. The interior is divided into a large gymnasium, with a balcony, a reading and committee room, and shower-bath apartments for both boys and girls. The rooms are complete with hammered brass fixtures with invisible lights. The building will be a branch of the city library and a branch of the city Y. M. C. A. offices. The gymnasium room which is floored with maple will be used

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for both basket ball and dancing. The big play room equipped with gymnasium apparatus will make an ideal playhouse for the children of the community. The large balcony which completely encircles this room, will furnish ample seating capacity for on-lookers at games and dances. Near the community building are located the baseball diamond, tennis court, running track and the swimming pool.

MASSACHUSETTS

Brookline (Pop. 32,730)

Brookline has a municipal gymnasium connected with and administered in conjunction with the famous natatorium of the town, erected at a cost of about \$150,000. The building, T-shape in construction, is of red brick with window trimmings, cornice and gable front of light terra cotta; it has a slate roof. The interior is of pointed brick with heavy plank floors. At the left of the entrance are the superintendent's office, the store-room, a lavatory and apparatus room, and the meeting room of the Brookline Gymnasium Athletic Association. At the right are the waiting room, the office of the director, the men's examination room, and the dressing room of the instructors. Facing the entrance is the large gymnasium. This is seventy-one feet four inches wide, one hundred feet eight inches long, twenty-five feet high on the side walls and forty-five feet in the middle. Twelve feet above the floor is a gallery, eight feet wide, on which has been laid out a modern running track, twenty laps to the mile. Raised platforms, with railings and chairs for visitors are situated in the corner. In the end corners are two fire exits. Light and ventilation are supplied by 12 large windows and skylights. A small gymnasium for women, 34 feet eight inches wide, 74 feet long and 21 feet high is located on the second floor. Adjoining it are a rest room, the office of the woman instructor, the women's examination room, dressing rooms, lockers, and baths, in all forty-nine dressing rooms, 350 lockers, and ten shower baths. In the basement are two large rooms. The east room is used for men's lockers and has dressing rooms and shower baths attached. The west room is given over to the track team of the High School and Brookline Gymnasium Athletic Association.

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Framingham (Pop. 13,982)

The old city hall in Framingham has been made over into a community building.

Holden (Pop. 2,147)

Holden also has a Community House, bought by selling shares at \$5.00 each. An old colonial house was remodeled for the House. A Town Club has been formed which leases half the second floor. The Daughters of the American Revolution and the Boy Scouts have permanent headquarters there; a tea-room and the renting of the assembly room furnish the revenue.

Worcester (Pop. 145,986)

Green Hill Mansion, the people's club house in Worcester, Mass., housed 287 parties attended by 9,441 persons from its opening October 12, 1914 to February 1, 1916. It contains a kitchen, piazzas and shower baths.

MICHIGAN

Grand Rapids (Pop. 128,291)

In Garfield Park, Grand Rapids, a two-story house of cement, plaster and frame construction has been erected at a cost of \$2,500. The first floor contains a dancing hall with several small rest rooms equipped with all conveniences. The second floor is a model living apartment. The house is known as Garfield Lodge and is given over free for the use of any party not to exceed thirty persons on application to the secretary of the Board of Parks and Cemeteries. As light and heat are furnished by the city, it is quite possible for a group to give an enjoyable entertainment without a cent of expense. The caretaker who also acts as a special policeman lives on the third floor, thus reducing greatly his maintenance.

In the winter time the lodge is always in use. Dance parties are not the only functions given but they predominate. Sunday school affairs and musicals and mothers' clubs meetings are held there. In the summer time lawn fetes are given in groves surrounding the lodge. Its success is unquestioned; it is as much a part of the community as the park itself. The expense of light, heat, fuel and water is not great and the city

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feels that the increased social activities and community interest more than compensate for the cost of the building.

Harbor Beach (Pop. 1,556)

In 1917 \$25,000 was donated for a community building by two public-spirited citizens and \$25,000 subscribed by citizens of Harbor Beach.

MINNESOTA

Eveleth (Pop. 7,036)

The Eveleth City Auditorium is used more extensively for recreational purposes than any other building in that part of the country. It is estimated that in six months nearly 30,000 persons have attended entertainments and parties in the auditorium. The building is also used for gymnasium purposes by the school children four times each week and by the militia on Thursday evenings. It is equipped with an excellent stage and scenery, has an exceptionally fine floor for dancing or gymnasium purposes, and a kitchen and dining room for serving luncheons and church suppers.

Wheaton (Pop. 1,300)

As the result of an election called to vote on bonds for the Wheaton recreation center building the bond issue carried by a vote of three to one. A bid of \$22,000 was accepted and a location secured near the center of the town. The building has three floors; one floor houses the County Farm Bureau and to it throng the farmers of the whole county. It is supplied with all conveniences, magazines, easy chairs, boys' and men's lockers and shower rooms. On the second floor is the auditorium and also the girls' and women's lockers and shower rooms. The auditorium will accommodate 1,500 people. When not in use it can be turned into a gymnasium; on account of the height of the ceilings practically any game can be played here and there is a complete gymnasium equipment. On the third floor are the rest and recreation rooms for women. The agricultural department of the high school is housed in the building.

Willmar (Pop. 4,135)

The community house at Willmar, a community of less

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than 5,000 people, has an interesting history. The City Council, the Commercial and Auto Clubs of Willmar feeling that there was special need for a rest and recreation room for the wives and children from the rural districts who came in frequently to do their shopping, formed a committee. The city council promised to give a certain amount towards the upkeep of such an undertaking and to furnish the water and light. The home of a widow near the center of the town was rented for \$20 a month and the services of its owner secured for \$13 a month. She has her quarters on the top floor. The house has become the center of the social activities of the town; during the first month 245 visitors were entertained and the attendance is constantly growing.

MISSOURI

Boonville (Pop. 4,252)

Boonville, Mo., has a community building.

NEBRASKA

Elgin (Pop. 606)

The Elgin opera house was purchased by the people of Elgin and an architect employed to remodel the building into a modern country club house. This building contains an auditorium, a women's rest room, a gymnasium, banquet hall and dance hall, a well-furnished kitchen, a game room which is located in the basement and contains two bowling alleys, two pool tables and a billiard table, a library and a business office. On all floors are wash rooms and toilet facilities and the gymnasium has shower baths.

NEW JERSEY

Oceanic (Pop. 600)

This community house was formerly an old Presbyterian church, remodeled and enlarged at a cost of \$4,500. The building is now nearly twice the size of the original church. It has a vestibule, a coat room and a ticket office at the entrance. The main hall which will seat about 400 persons, has a very large stage with foot-lights and other electrical equipment. The

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stage is so arranged as to be available as a parlor, reading and game room, sewing room, or dining room, according to the wish of the organization which uses it. In the rear of the stage is a well-equipped kitchen with a large gas range, china closet and an ample supply of china, silverware, kitchen and cooking utensils. There is also a women's retiring and dressing room nicely furnished. A gymnasium in the basement measures 24' x 36' with a 12 foot ceiling. A gallery, capable of seating about 100 persons is at the front of the building. It is equipped with a billiard and pool table. Back of the gallery is an electrical apparatus for a moving-picture machine. The whole building is heated with steam, and has a splendid system of lighting of which one member remarked, "No saloon or theatre has anything on Oceanic's Community House when it comes to lights." Two lots adjoining have been donated to the House and will be used for tennis and other recreation.

NEW YORK

Chatham (Pop. 2,389)

The Morris Memorial building at Chatham cost \$50,000. It has a 40' x 60' gymnasium, shower baths, bowling alleys, pool and billiard rooms. Some of the activities carried on there are gymnasium classes for boys, men, women and girls, athletic meets, baseball, basket ball and bowling games, entertainments, lectures, meetings of Boy Scouts, village improvement association and various clubs.

Locust Valley (Pop. 450)

Locust Valley has a community club house erected by the Matinecock Neighborhood Association. The building provides space for bowling alleys, fire company headquarters, committee rooms, auditorium and social room, while an uncompleted part, to be finished when need is evident, will provide for a library and billiard rooms.

Newark (Pop. 6,000)

A gymnasium or community recreation center has been built at Newark, N. Y., by funds voted for this purpose by the people. It was formally dedicated by Dr. Finley, State Commissioner of Education.

COMMUNITY HOUSES

NORTH CAROLINA

Salisbury (Pop. 7,153)

The old courthouse of Rowan County at Salisbury, N. C., was remodeled for the use of the people when the new courthouse was put in service. Through the efforts of the Industrial Club, Y. M. C. A., Civic League and various women's organizations, the old structure was renovated. It now provides rooms for various clubs and societies, the public library, rest-rooms for out-of-town visitors, an exhibition hall and an auditorium with a well-equipped stage which can be rented for a nominal sum.

OHIO

Columbus (Pop. 214,878)

Columbus, Ohio, has a building at Glenwood Park which was constructed at a cost of \$25,000. It is a one-story building of composite construction with hard pine floors and finished in oak. The basement provides for a swimming pool 18 by 31 feet three inches, a girls' locker room 11 feet six inches by 24 feet, five inches, a boys' locker room a little larger, showers and toilets for boys and girls, restaurant and kitchen. A gymnasium built with a circular running track is constructed as an addition to the main floor which contains a social hall 30 feet three inches by 48 feet. The main floor contains a balcony, office, library, two club rooms (one for boys and one for girls) and two game rooms.

PENNSYLVANIA

Butler (Pop. 27,632)

The community building at Butler was opened on April 9, 1917. The Chamber of Commerce leased this building with two objects in view, the first being to advance the civic interests in the community by uniting all the forces, working to the same end. Six organizations covering somewhat the same field have been provided with suitable quarters in this building at a nominal rental, and through being under one roof, much duplication of effort is eliminated. On the first floor of the

COMMUNITY HOUSES

building are the offices and committee rooms of the various organizations. On the second floor is an auditorium capable of seating 400 people, which is equipped with a stage and a balcony. Adjoining the auditorium are a dining-room and a kitchen.

The second object was to promote commercial activity by making it more convenient and pleasant for the people from the country to visit Butler. The gymnasium is furnished with substantial tables, comfortable chairs and benches and here the County Farm Bureau maintains an elaborate exhibition. Adjoining this club room is a check room. On this same floor is a toilet and wash room, comfortably furnished with couches and small beds for children. Buildings similar to this are being used in Washington and Huntingdon, Pa.

VERMONT

Randolph (Pop. 1,787)

In Randolph there is a music hall and parish house called the "Chandler Music Hall." It is the social and entertainment center not only of the large village, but of the surrounding country as well. The old village hall where all sorts of shows formerly took place has been abandoned for the church social center where not only boys', men's and girls' clubs have their home with the use of the gymnasium, bowling alley, bathroom, dining room, and large public hall, but where the pastor and his committees select best modern dramas and operas to be presented.

Rutland (Pop. 14,831)

The community house at Rutland, Vt., is a three-story brick building, originally occupied by the Bank of Rutland, later used as a residence by ex-governor John A. Mead and finally purchased by him in 1915 and presented as a Christmas gift to the Congregational church to be used as a recreation center. All persons, regardless of church affiliations are welcome. A gymnasium, also the gift of Governor Mead, is connected with the kitchen in the Community House so that meals may be served in the large hall. The seating capacity of the hall is 600. The walls of the house were re-papered, hardwood floors laid and a central heating plant installed in the basement of the community building for heating the house and the gymnasium. A large

COMMUNITY HOUSES

reception room in which there is a piano, men's club rooms, containing leather furniture and a pool table, a small office, dining room, spacious kitchen and pantries occupy the first floor. On the second floor there are four large front rooms to be used by the women's societies of the church and for girl's clubs. The third floor with five large rooms, one extending the length of the building is devoted to boys' club activities. Here are two pool tables and a table bowling alley.

The gymnasium is 84 by 52 feet. The main floor is given to a single room, two stories high, to be used for games, dancing, gymnastic exercises and entertainments. There is a large stage with footlights and dressing rooms at either side. The basement is divided into two sections to be used as locker rooms, one for women and girls, the other for men and boys. Each of these rooms is provided with steel lockers, three shower baths, a tub and toilets.

VIRGINIA

Powell Fort, Shenendoah County

Powell Fort has a modern community building, erected by the people themselves.

WISCONSIN

Green Bay (Pop. 29,353)

In 1912 Brown County erected a new court house. The County Board of Commissioners thereupon granted the use of the old building to the women of Brown County for a number of years. Five thousand dollars equipped and furnished the building; all sanitary conveniences were put in, with rest rooms for women and children and social gathering rooms; dances and other forms of entertainments can be given. On Sunday afternoons the house is kept open for the employed young women of the town, many of whom live in boarding houses. To the country people especially it is a great boon as it gives them a meeting place.

Racine (Pop. 46,486)

Racine, Wisconsin, has a one-story community house erected by the Park Commission at a cost of less than \$7,500 which,

COMMUNITY HOUSES

it is felt, is adequately meeting community needs. The building contains a gymnasium 40 by 70 feet, 12 shower baths, toilets for both men and women, a reading room, recreation room and a kitchen. Economy of space has been effected by using the recreation room as a dressing room and at having a sectional movable platform instead of a permanent stage. The locker room contains a few steel lockers but for economy of space it is fitted with pigeon holes in which are slipped wire baskets for the accommodation of the people using the gymnasium.

Sheboygan (Pop. 28,559)

The James H. Mead Club, with building and equipment valued at \$50,000, was opened in September, 1916. The building includes a fine gymnasium and auditorium combined (capacity 1,000), an attractive general reception room furnished with leather furniture, a ladies' rest room, a well-equipped pool room with two pocket tables and one rail table, a reading room with thirty-two of the best magazines, a smoking room for men, four bowling alleys, six shower baths for men and three for women in addition to locker rooms and dressing rooms. There is a dressing room just off the stage and two small club rooms for Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls and similar organizations. The attendance in gymnasium classes for three weeks was over 1,300. Club membership dues ranging from \$1.00 to \$5.00 help defray expenses.

Spring Valley (Pop. 972)

The destruction by fire of the old village hall in Spring Valley heralded the awakening of a new civic pride and community spirit. A petition was signed for a bond issue to build a hall; \$5,000 was voted; citizens vied with one another in donations of labor and material and a new building speedily arose from the ashes of the old. The lower floor of the hall which measures 50 by 100 feet, contains furnace rooms, kitchen, dining room, a suite of club rooms and the village library room. The upper floor is used as an auditorium. The cost of the building in cash was \$7,388, and the many gifts of furniture, time, labor and material greatly increased its value. Ownership is with the village, the Village Board comprising the Board of Directors of the community house. The village clerk who is manager, books plays and entertainments

COMMUNITY HOUSES

and rents the dining room and auditorium to societies and individuals wishing to use them. The hall is used for plays, moving pictures, entertainments, class plays, banquets, suppers and dances. Janitor work is done by the village marshall without extra pay.

MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUMS

The following cities have municipal auditoriums:

CALIFORNIA

Oakland (Pop. 198,604)

This "civic auditorium and opera house" is a particularly successful building.

COLORADO

Denver (Pop. 260,800)

This municipal auditorium was built at a cost of \$400,000 for the use of the Democratic National Convention of 1908; the hall which seats 12,000 can be transformed into a theatre seating 3,500.

Longmont (Pop. 4,256)

A combined auditorium, armory and exhibition hall comprises Longmont's municipal auditorium.

GEORGIA

Atlanta (Pop. 190,558)

The main amphitheatre of the Atlanta, Ga. auditorium armory seats 7,500; the small convention hall, 1,000.

IOWA

Clinton (Pop. 27,386)

The Clinton, Ia., Coliseum Building was built at a cost of \$100,000 and is used as the home of the Clinton Commercial Club and Battery "A" of the Iowa National Guard. The entire building covers a space of about 100 x 200 feet. The coliseum portion occupies 100 x 150 feet of this space. The side walls

COMMUNITY HOUSES

are brick, the roof is a single arch from side to side of the building, supported on five massive steel arches. The height of this arch above the floor in the center is about 55 feet.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul (Pop. 247,232)

This auditorium was built by the municipality aided by private subscription, at a cost of \$460,000; it seats 10,000 or may be changed into a theatre seating 3,200. The building measures 181 x 301 and is used for all kinds of meetings and entertainments.

OHIO

Akron (Pop. 85,625)

Akron has a combined auditorium, armory and exhibition hall.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh (Pop. 579,090)

The Pittsburgh combined exposition hall and music hall was financed by private subscriptions on property leased by the city for 50 years without cost or taxes; it cost \$858,253 and seats 12,000.

TEXAS

Houston (Pop. 112,307)

The municipal auditorium at Houston cost \$300,000 without taxation or bonding for the purpose, out of money saved from the general revenues of the city. It seats about 7,000.

WISCONSIN

Eau Claire (Pop. 18,807)

A combined auditorium, armory and exhibition hall is the property of Eau Claire.

Milwaukee (Pop. 436,535)

The site of the Milwaukee auditorium valued at \$500,000 is owned by the city; one-half of the funds for this building

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

were raised by municipal bond issue and the remainder by private subscriptions.

WEST VIRGINIA

Wheeling (Pop. 43,377)

This building is designed to serve as a market as well as an auditorium. The enterprise cost \$150,000.

Among the other cities having municipal auditoriums are Jacksonville, Fla., San Francisco, Calif., Dodge City and Wichita, Kansas, Portland, Maine, Springfield, Mass., Littleton, N. H., Akron and Cincinnati, Ohio, Portland, Oregon, Ft. Worth, and Houston, Texas, and Richland Center, Wisconsin.

In addition to the above, plans for the construction of auditoriums have been set on foot in Peoria, Ill., Roanoke, Va., Rochester, N. Y., Sioux Falls, S. D., and Spokane, Washington.

Community buildings range from simple one-story buildings to elaborate structures. The requirements of such a building should be governed by local conditions, the character of the population, the public facilities already existing and the purposes which it is desired the building shall serve. It ought to be centrally located where it is available for all the people. Above all, it should be a real community house, supported by the people, and in which every community member has a part.

Theodore Roosevelt

A Man Who Played

The play movement has never had a truer friend than Theodore Roosevelt. In his own life he demonstrated what a strong play spirit, what vigorous, happy, athletic effort can do to make a man's life efficient, to give a man abundant life. Throughout all his years, no man more than he embodied the spirit of the play and recreation movement.

When Jacob Riis, who was always so close to Colonel Roosevelt, united with others to form the Playground and Recreation Association of America in June, 1906, it was natural that Theodore Roosevelt should be chosen Honorary President and should

ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL PARK

accept and should remain for twelve years, until his death, in this position. Jacob Riis several times during the last year of his life, as he sat in the office of the secretary of the Playground and Recreation Association of America in the Metropolitan Tower, said, "I never see the letterhead of the Association without pleasure that Theodore Roosevelt's name and my name are side by side—he as Honorary President and I as Honorary Vice-President."

Colonel Roosevelt, as president of the United States, threw his influence enthusiastically for the play movement and by his utterances helped greatly. In speaking of the Chicago recreation centers, he said, "Playgrounds are a necessary means for the development of wholesome citizenship in modern cities. The Chicago playgrounds are the greatest civic achievement the world has ever seen."

Because of the peculiar way in which Colonel Roosevelt belonged to the recreation movement, as well as because he has from the beginning been our Honorary President, may we not all arrange that a brief memorial service of song be held on each playground, in each recreation centre, and by each recreation commission and each recreation association? I believe we shall gain in thinking together on the play and recreation life of our great leader and rejoicing that he was given to us.

H. S. BRAUCHER

Roosevelt Memorial Park

To be Erected at Oyster Bay, L. I.

The memorial planned in honor of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, who was Honorary President of War Camp Community Service, practically within sight of his old home, is rapidly taking form. The Committee, which has this matter in charge, has for its President, William Loeb, Jr., at one time private secretary to President Roosevelt. Associated with him are John F. Bermingham, Vice-President, and the following members:

Mortimer L. Schiff
Colgate Hoyt
Joseph H. Sears
George Bullock

William L. Peters
Howard C. Smith
William L. Swan
Rev. Father Canivan

Rev. Doctor George Talmadge

IN MEMORIAM

The site already obtained consists of eighteen acres near the railroad station at Oyster Bay, fronting the water. Colonel Roosevelt frequently referred to this site as an ideal spot for such a park as is now to be constructed there. Scores of landscape artists have offered their services to make this park one of the most attractive and practical in the United States. It will contain an athletic field, a stadium and a bathing beach. Bulkheads will be built at the water front, trees planted, walks laid out and benches provided for the people of Oyster Bay and the thousands who are expected to make a pilgrimage to this spot in the days to come.

The Committee decided to make this a national movement, as hundreds of letters were received from all sections of the country asking to be allowed to contribute. Many of these letters were accompanied by cash contributions, chiefly in small amounts, from persons who sent all they could afford, but who were earnestly desirous of having a part in the tribute to the man they so admired. In many states, the Republican organization will work for contributions, and a treasurer will be appointed in each state to take charge of these.

In Memoriam

Horace E. Andrews

Mr. Horace E. Andrews, whose death on December 1, 1918 last was so great a loss not only to the business world but to the entire community, was a director and a member of the Executive Committee of War Camp Community Service, had been for a short time a director of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, and took part in the important meetings of the two organizations on the occasion of the incorporation of the former.

Mr. Andrews by his espousal of the cause of War Camp Community Service made an essential contribution to its success. Personally he was a most delightful man to have dealings with. His kindness and sympathetic understanding and his

IRA W. JAYNE

sense of humor made even budget meetings a joy when he was present.

The following resolutions were passed by the Executive Committee of War Camp Community Service at the meeting following his death:

Resolutions

War Camp Community Service desires to express its sense of irreparable loss in the death of Horace E. Andrews, in whom it has lost a most able, sympathetic and highly respected friend. Mr. Andrews accepted a position upon the Budget Committee of War Camp Community Service at a time when its work was little known or understood and has, through his faith in it, and his invaluable participation in the work of its most important Committee, been a principal cause of its success.

War Camp Community Service desires to express to Mrs. Andrews and the other members of Mr. Andrews' family, its sympathy with them in their loss and its sense of gratitude for its part in the great services which Mr. Andrews has rendered to the community.

JOSEPH LEE

Ira W. Jayne

With the beginning of 1919 Ira W. Jayne severs his connection, in a professional way, at least, with recreation. At that time he becomes Judge of the Circuit Court for Wayne County, Michigan.

Judge Jayne has had a very varied experience in social work. In the first place, he was attorney for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and became largely responsible for the merger of that society with an institution known as the "Home of the Friendless," in which children with none, with one or with two parents were lodged, sometimes temporarily and sometimes permanently. In one fell swoop, under the guidance of Judge Jayne, the Childrens' Aid Society was formed as a central place for looking after the care of children having special needs and the names "Home of the

IRA W. JAYNE

Friendless" and "Prevention of Cruelty to Children" were lost from general usage.

Judge Jayne served on the Detroit Board of Commerce Commission which superintended the survey for recreation made by the Playground and Recreation Association of America. This survey, conducted by Rowland Haynes, was a document of immense advertising value and became the basis of necessary charter legislation for instituting an effective recreation system.

Judge Jayne was the first director of recreation when the new recreation department of Detroit was formed. Instead of making a campaign for playgrounds and buildings he used his utmost efforts to build up the recreation elements in the public schools, the libraries, the settlements, the parks and various mutual societies for music, athletics and play. He sought an adequate budget for the direction of these efforts and assumed that when the principle of recreation was once accepted the appropriations for land and buildings would easily follow. At one time the Board of Estimates, since then abolished, as a part of the City government, practically wiped out the recreation budget. The following evening and day every newspaper in Detroit carried a cartoon on the front page and a leading editorial conveying to the Board of Estimates the sentiment of the people of Detroit about a government that did not recognize the value of recreation. It is needless to say that the budget item was speedily restored.

Judge Jayne, in his platform for the campaign to obtain his present office, has emphasized the necessity of humanizing the courts so that our divorce and domestic relations matters are approached not only from a legal but from a sociological standpoint. Although he won the election by a very creditable majority, it is generally believed that the bench and bar disapproved of the election of a Judge from the ranks of social workers rather than the leading lights at the bar. It is to be hoped that Judge Jayne will have the opportunity to organize the domestic relations business of Wayne County as he has organized the recreation of the City of Detroit. If he has the opportunity it can be safely assumed that he will bring to the task sanity, common sense, good will and the ability to build up a popular support which is so necessary in the working of government.

FRED M. BUTZEL

Keeping Service Men Happy in Winter

A moving picture which showed the winter activities of the War Camp Community Service would be of keen interest to every community in these more than ever United States, but it would take days for the showing. Rather let us do our own moving and flit mentally over the country as we view the succeeding pages, which help us to visualize the panorama of winter sports from Maine to Florida, across to San Diego, up the Western coast and back to the starting point.

Healthful recreation for men in service, one of the first ideals of War Camp Community Service (conducted by the Playground and Recreation Association of America for the War Department and Navy Department Commissions on Training Camp Activities) has been consistently provided in camp communities, and is continuing in the period of readjustment as our soldiers, sailors and marines return from that far-away, horizon-blue land of poilus. With the varied climates which the United States affords, it is not surprising to find everything in the list of outdoor winter sports from ice skating and tobogganing to bathing and beach picnics.

One of the most fascinating events in the northern realm was the Outdoor Sports Carnival in St. Paul, which emphasized sports of all kinds, ski-ing, tobogganing, skating and outdoor push-ball. In ante-bellum days the carnival was established and carnival clubs had been organized in all business houses, each club having a distinctive carnival costume with brilliant color schemes designed for snow backgrounds. The peace time program included contests and parades which seemed scarcely adequate for war days. Accordingly War Camp Community Service was requisitioned to "carry on" and under its guidance the carnival clubs, resplendent in gay costumes, went out to Fort Snelling for an afternoon of typical carnival play with the soldiers. About ten thousand people from St. Paul took part in the events and the soldiers entered the contests with much verve. Probably nothing in the life at Fort Snelling was more successful in bringing to the men in training the conviction that the civilian population is back of them and interested in them.

Winter sports at Camp Devens, in Ayer, Mass., under the di-

KEEPING SERVICE MEN HAPPY IN WINTER

rection of War Camp Community Service, have been a rather continuous carnival. The situation of the Robbins Pond Club House is admirable, located, as it is, a few feet from the pond with a frontage of 200 feet on the main thoroughfare of the camp. During the winter months the boats and canoes of the summer-time are stored away and the little sheet of ice, when not in use as a drill field, is utilized for tobogganing. The farther shore of the pond consists of a steep hill, and, Nature thus providing the slide, rare sport has resulted.

In Pensacola, Florida, vastly different sports have been provided by War Camp Community Service. There, on dates when up North the wind blew raw and cold, and only strenuous play on ice tempted men to stay long in the open, sport meets under balmy Florida skies were held with the Army and Navy competing against each other. At one of these there were 40 entries on both sides, the events including the mile, half mile, high jump, broad jump, 100-yard dash and 3-legged race. Football and pushball have each been promoted with much success by directors in many camps throughout the South, and in the war camp communities farthest below the Mason and Dixon line baseball has been popular, even in the dead of winter.

Completion of the list of strictly southern fetes would include street fairs in Charleston, "oyster roasts" in Washington, and outdoor community sings in Miami, Key West, Anniston, Alabama, Biloxi, Mobile, and a baker's dozen more southern camp towns.

In Florida and Southern California War Camp Community Service has promoted orange grove picnics, arranging in this way for many men to have their first experience in groves of the luscious fruit long viewed only when emerging from packing boxes.

At Christmas time many camp cities held open-air celebrations, some—as Oakland, for instance—staging Percy MacKaye's Christmas masque, *The Evergreen Tree*, out of doors. Whenever climate permitted, Christmas trees were erected out of doors and Christmas pageants and games took place in the fascinating, fitful glow of the tree lights. *The Patriotic Christmas Pageant* written by Constance D'Arcy Mackay, which was put on by the San Francisco W. C. C. S. in cooperation with the city, proved to be the largest community program ever attempted by that city.

Salt Lake City's sleighing parties combine outdoor and indoor sports in a delightful fashion. The combination of sleighing and

KEEPING SERVICE MEN HAPPY IN WINTER

home parties for various little groups afterward was a special inspiration of the local W. C. C. S. director, which brought from the soldier guests the comment, "Gee! every kind of a good time!"

An ice-skating pond in Seattle, which was made for War Camp Community Service, afforded not only great pleasure in skating, but provided some very exciting contests as well for men from Camp Lewis. The use of the rink was free to men in uniform, whose appreciation was shown by crowded attendance.

No survey of War Camp Community Service winter activities, however compactly summarized, is complete with an outline of outdoor festivities alone. With literally thousands of "Khaki and Blue" dances and indoor parties given in the Red Circle Clubs, and theatre parties a frequent event in Red Circle weekly programs, it cannot be said that winter affairs have been entirely sports, nor entirely out of doors.

In December in New York City, War Camp Community Service entertained many hundreds of convalescent soldiers at theatre parties. This did not mean that the usual flow of free tickets stopped for other uniformed men, who did not bear wound stripes, but that special theatre parties were arranged for the convalescent veterans.

Home hospitality, too, has been especially prized by men in service, and this feature, especially emphasized by W. C. C. S. from the beginning of the war, has brought the civilian element of communities into closer touch with the men in service than any other one activity on the entertainment list. In many ways besides hospitality in their own homes the townspeople in war camp communities have been brought into close and sympathetic relationship with the uniformed guests within their gates. Such understanding means that the communities through their respective Red Circle Clubs and through personal service can better serve the men in camps during the coming period of their greater need. With sports, with community singing, with home parties and club dances, War Camp Community Service, under its Red Circle emblem, is continuing true to its original motto, "Surround the camps with hospitality," and better still is bringing through the hospitality extended a close communion between military and civilian minds and a realization on the part of communities of the needs, present and future of the men in the service of the country.

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